

January 2023

# Barkell Elementary

## Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



## Principal Announcements

- Breakfast and lunch are no longer free this year for all students. Please fill out a free and reduced lunch form if you have not already done so. Bills can be paid at this link: [hancock.familyportal.cloud](http://hancock.familyportal.cloud)
- Thank you to everyone for their generous Bulldog Shop donations.
- Please remember that if you drop your child off at school in the mornings to do so at the main entrance doors.
- Please consider helping out our PTO. They do a lot for our school and could use a few volunteers to help with various events. You do not need to come to all of the PTO meetings to be a volunteer. They are looking for individuals who can help once or twice per year.
- Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do to help.

Sincerely,

Dan Vaara– Barkell Elementary Principal



### Upcoming Events

- 2/1 Early dismissal (1:45 pm)
- 2/17 & 2/20 No school (Mid Winter Break)



# STEM News



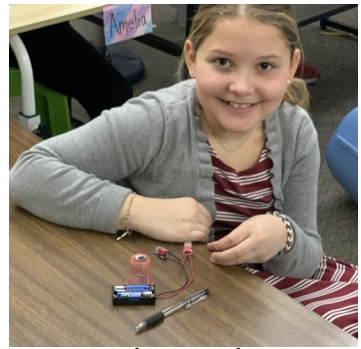
Students in the Barkell Elementary STEM program continue to do amazing things! Students routinely do exciting hands on activities that teach them about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Students have been creating program designs for our 3D printers, writing code to program our robots, and programming our drones to fly throughout the school....just to name a few.



Jonathan and Mason drive their robot around and perform tasks



Students enjoy learning about STEM from MTU engineering students

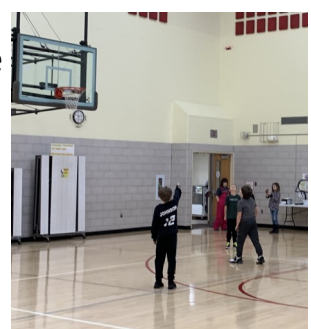


Viviana shows the circuit she built



Rylee and Mallory pose for a pic with their drone

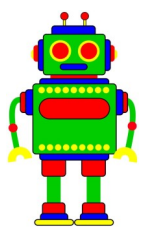
Andy pilots his drone



Third graders watch their drone soar way over their heads



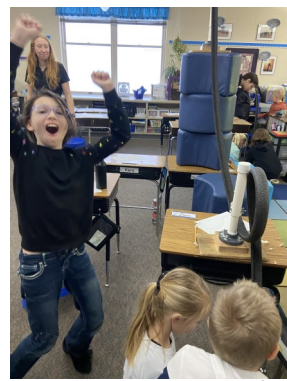
Fifth graders design their circuits



Young Fivers have fun learning about robots



Cam and Kade program their robots



Quinn is excited about STEM



Warren, Myles, and Easton design their track



Kindergartners begin designing their boats



Jordyn works on her track







# Art News



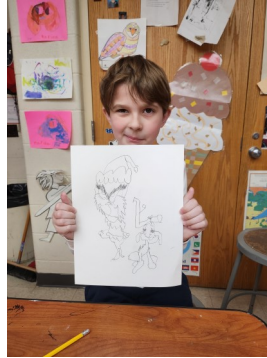
Our young artists have been hard at work. Students have had fun with winter themed art projects. Students also enjoyed participating in the CCEA local young artist notecard competition. Congratulations to Henry Knoch, KariAnn Ek, and Rowan Erickson for finishing among the winners of this year's competition!



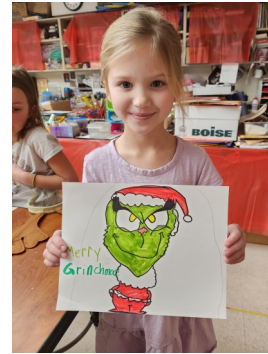
A special thanks goes to Henry for assisting the sales staff sell student notecards at the Poor Artists' Sale



Henry Knoch, KariAnn Ek and Rowan Erickson were this year's notecard winners



Phoenyx shows his Grinch drawing



Ellie and Kylie display their work



## Heikinpaiva Essay Contest



Barkell Elementary third graders once again competed in the Heikinpaiva Essay Contest. Students learned about and then wrote about the tradition of Heikinpaiva. Congrats to Elin Stromer and Rylee Wantaja for winning this year's competition. Both received \$20, a certificate, and they got to ride in the parade.

Heikinpaiva

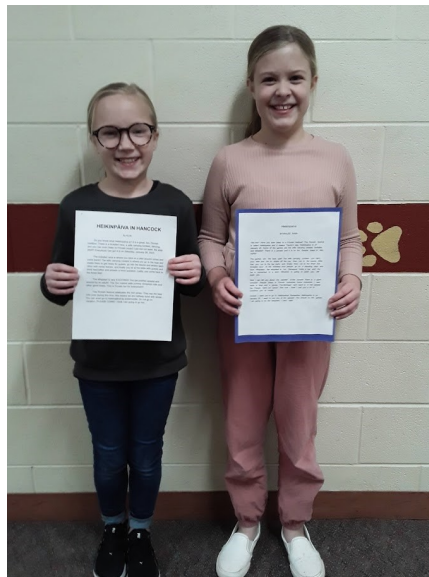
BY: RYLEE RAIN

"Hei Hei!" Have you ever been to a Finnish festival? The Finnish festival is called Heikinpaiva and it means "Henry's day. Heikinpaiva is on January 28. Some of the games are the wife carrying contest, kicksled, and whipsled. There is a parade and it is so fun. People dress in silly outfits!

The games are the best part! The wife carrying contest- you carry your wife and run to shake off the rug, then run to the sauna. After that you run to the tea party and finally they run to the finish line. Kicksled race- At the kicksled race people go on a standing sled and kick! Whipsled- the whipsled is fun. Someone holds a bar and the bar is connected to a sled. Whoever is going to push you, will push you.

Now I can tell you about the parade! In the parade there is a giant kicksled! People dress in Finnish costumes. Some costumes I saw were a bear and a goose. The Michigan tech band is in the parade too. People hand out candy! And now I think I told you a lot to convince you to come!

Overall I want you to go to Heikinpaiva! Remember Heikinpaiva is on January 28. I want to see you at the parade! You should try the games. I am going to try the whipsled. I can't wait!



### HEIKINPÄIVA IN HANCOCK

By ELIN

Do you know what Heikinpaiva is? It is a great, fun, Finnish tradition. There is a kicksled race, a wife carrying contest, dancing, and you can even listen to Finnish music! Last but not least, the whip sled!!! Everybody can go! It is on Saturday, January 28, 2023.

The kicksled race is where you race on a sled around cones and come back!! The wife carrying contest is where you go to the rugs and shake them to get ready for guests, go into the sauna and whack each other with cedar leaves, and finally you sit at the table with guests and drink tea/coffee and answer a trivia question. Lastly, you come back to the finish line!

The whipsled is very EXCITING!! You get pushed around and around by an adult!! The Tori market sells yummy cinnamon rolls and other good treats. This is Finnish fun for everyone!!!!

This Finnish festival celebrates the mid winter. They say the bear rolls over during this time, this means we are halfway done with winter. You can even go to Heikinpäivä by snowmobile. Do not go on vacation, PLEASE COME! I think I am going to go too.





# Young Fives News



Young Fives students have spent the last month learning their numbers and letters. They have also been learning about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. (STEM). Students recently had fun learning about buoyancy by making tin boats and testing how many marbles they could hold.



Students learn how to program robots



Fun at the sand table



Rowen displays the pattern he created



Lane gets help with his design



Mrs. Nordmark helps Young Fivers with their boat designs

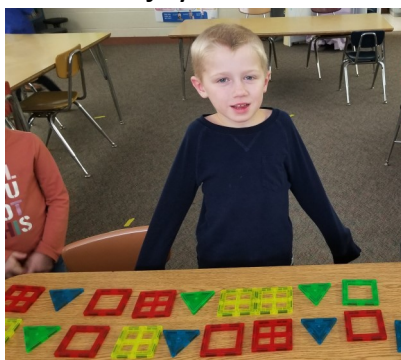


Jayden's work

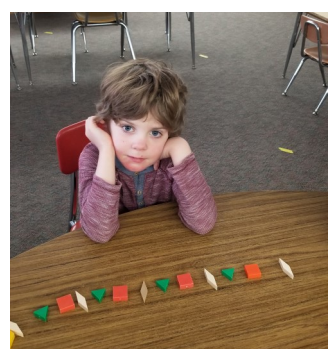


...a fun place to play and learn!

Young Fivers enjoy STEM class



Cam, Kade and Peyton pose with the patterns they created



Ethan's pattern and Koledyn's creation



Young Fivers are amazed to see the massive amount of marbles their boat could hold







# Kindergarten News



Kindergarteners at Barkell Elementary finished their health and nutrition lessons by making green eggs and ham with Ms. Kathy Bauer. Ms. Bauer works with our local MSU Extension office and has visited our kindergarteners six times to teach us about nutrition and exercise. Our kindergarteners also enjoyed a fun STEM activity where they designed boats to see how big of a load they could handle



Evan and Brody test out whose boat will float.



Logan and Brielle watch their boats take the weight.



Ms. Bauer gets help from our kindergartners preparing green eggs and ham



Students work on their boat design



Evelyn and Alivia have their boats tested



Lilly and Lavinia help stir the eggs



Kindergartners enjoy green eggs and ham



Lillyanne and Reece test their designs.



Students wait in line to test their designs



Students learn about the engineering process before designing their boats







# Second Grade News



Barkell Elementary second graders have had an exciting January! Students have enjoyed learning about kinetic and potential energy while engineering roller coasters. Students had fun making their roller coasters do loops that defied gravity with centripetal force! Second graders also enjoyed snowshoeing on our nature trail while exploring animal habitat.



Students get ready to head to the school forest



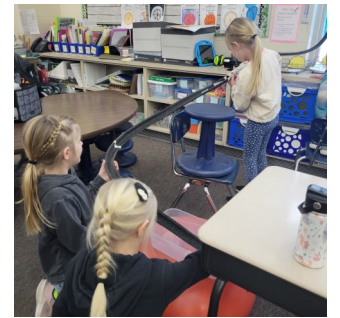
Students examine habitats in our school forest



Students send their cars down the roller coaster



Engineering students assist second graders



Madison takes a break for a photo



Ryder waits for track repairs



Students build their tracks



Students test out the amazing roller coaster tracks they designed



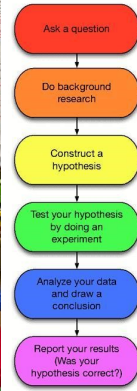




# Third Grade News



Barkell Elementary third graders had a blast learning to engineer a roller coaster on Engineering Day. Thank you to MTU Engineering students for working with our kids and designing such an exciting day of learning!



Third graders engineer their roller coasters



An MTU Engineering student assists third graders with their design



Adara and Viera put on the finishing touches

Justus and Alia take a quick break

Brinley and Rogue pose for a quick photo



Third graders steepen their coaster for more speed



Third graders get ready to test their track

Elin, Isabelle, and Olivia prepare for a test run







# Fourth Grade News

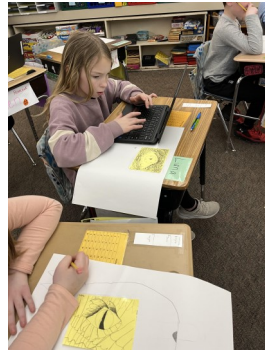
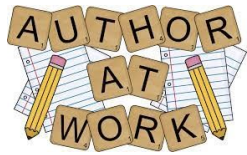


Fourth graders recently had fun combining an art project with a writing assignment. Students created animal eyes in art class. Students then had the eyes shrunk so that they could create the rest of the face for their animal. Students then wrote a "How to" paper on the step by step procedure of how to finish their animal's face.

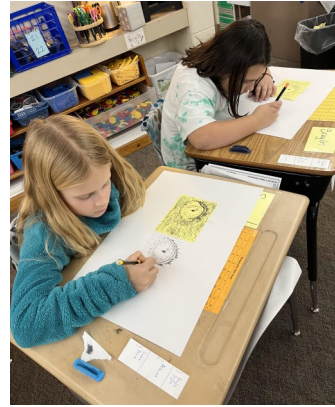


Jacie types her How to directions

Liana focuses on her work



A quick break for some STEM fun



Savannah and Braylin finish drawing their creatures



Liam and Boden focus on their work



Alaina works hard on her project



Liam and Boden focus on their work



# Fifth Grade Spelling Bee



Barkell Elementary fifth graders participated in the annual Scripps National Spelling Bee. The top three spellers in each classroom competed against each other for the right to advance to the Regional competition. Congratulations goes out to the six finalists: Brietta, Gracie, Sonny, Viviana, Amelia, and Jocelyn. Congratulations to Viviana for finishing first and to Gracie for finishing second. Both spellers advance to the Regionals. Good luck girls!



Viviana is our spelling champion



Congrats to Brietta, Jocelyn, Viviana, Gracie, Amelia, and Sonny (not pictured)

Congrats to Viviana and Gracie for advancing to the Regionals







# Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- **The Barkell PTO** for all that they do
- **The Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous grants
- **Catherine Jordan** for her generous donation
- **Gloria Dei** for their generous donation of hats and mittens.
- **Karen Fenton** for her generous donation of boots
- **John Wheeler Memorial Fund** for their generous donation of books and money
- **MTU students** for their generous donation of books
- **Emily Cavis** for her generous donation of drawing prizes
- **Grace Huhta** for her generous donation of clothing
- **Cari Stromer** for her generous donation of snow pants and boots

## School Reminders

1. All visitors must report to the office. Please do not go to the classroom once the day has begun.
2. Please remember to call the attendance line when your child is absent.
3. Please remember to check the lost and found. We have quite a few unclaimed belongings.



Elin and Rylee get VIP treatment at the Heikinpaiva parade



First graders practice songs on their ukuleles



## Barkell Elementary needs help with:



- \*We are in need of kid size socks for all of the wet feet that come off of the playground
- \* We are in need of board games (used or new) for our students to use during indoor recess.
- \*We are in need of extra art supplies for our indoor recess arts and crafts program.
- \*We are in need of boys/girls pull-on pants size 5-7